

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4086

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONGUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, XF, JO

SUBJECT: KING HUSSEIN PRESS CONFERENCE

FOLLOWING ARE TEXTUAL HIGHLIGHTS OF KING HUSSEIN'S
PRESS CONFERENCE IN AMMAN.

KING HUSSEIN: ALL OF US ARE TRYING TO ANALYZE RECENT
DEVELOPMENTS AND TO ARRIVE AT CONSTRUCTIVE CONCLUSIONS.

YOU HAVE HEARD A SHORT WHILE AGO MY STATEMENT
CONTAINING MY VIEWS ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, AND I
WOULD BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO DO WHAT I CAN BY ANSWERING
ANY OF YOUR QUESTIONS. I WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN BY
THANKING YOU ONCE AGAIN FOR COMING HERE AND I WAS
CERTAINLY ENCOURAGED BY YOUR INTEREST IN MEETING
WITH US HERE TODAY AND YOUR INTREST IN ASSESSING
YOUR ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTION.

Q-HAVING PRAISED PRESIDENT SADAT'S MISSION FOR
ITS BOLDNESS AND FOR ITS HAVING BROKEN DOWN WHAT
YOU CALLED THE PSYCHOLOGICAL BARRIERS, CAN YOU SAY WHY YOU ARE NOT
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PREPARED TO ATTEND THE CON-
FERENCE OR TALKS ARRANGED BY PRESIDENT SADAT TO
FOLLOW UP THAT INITIATIVE TOWARDS PEACE?

A-I WOULD LIKE TO SAY HERE THAT AS FAR AS MY
VIEWS REGARDING PRESIDENT SADAT, HE IS THE
PRESIDENT OF EGYPT, A COUNTRY THAT HAS BEEN DEEPLY

INVOLVED IN THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM AND THE ARAB STRUGGLE TOWARDS THE RECOVERY OF OUR RIGHTS RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING. EGYPT HAS SACRIFICED FOR MANY YEARS AND IN MANY OTHER AREAS. THEIR PEOPLE HAVE CARRIED A VERY HEAVY BURDEN. AS FAR AS THE STEP ITSELF IS CONCERNED I WANT TO EMPHASIZE ONCE AGAIN, IT CAME AS A TOTAL SURPRISE TO US IN TERMS OF ITS TIMING AND IN TERMS OF ITS CONTENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, IN TERMS OF THE ACTION ITSELF, ONE COULD ONLY SAY THAT IT TOOK GREAT MORAL COURAGE ON THE PART OF PRESIDENT SADAT TO GO TO

ISRAEL AND TO PRESENT THE CASE THERE AND IN A WAY WITH WHICH WE DO NOT DIFFER. AS FAR AS OUR VIEWS ARE CONCERNED, WE FEEL THE SAME WAY, THAT WHAT HE DID SAY REFLECTS OUR FEELINGS OF WHAT SHOULD BE THE BASIS OF A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM, THE BASIS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE HERE. I BELIEVE THAT FOLLOWING THAT VISIT, NO ONE IN THE WORLD CAN SAY THAT THE ARABS ARE NOT WILLING TO GO TO THE LIMIT IN THE SEARCH FOR A JUST, HONORABLE AND LASTING PEACE.

BUT ONCE AGAIN I'D LIKE TO SAY THAT THE WHOLE DEVELOPMENT WAS A TOTAL SURPRISE TO US; WE WERE NOT INVOLVED IN PLANNING IT, HAD NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

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OF IT AND WE HAVE OUR OWN VIEWS, WE HAVE OUR OWN THOUGHTS. SO WHEN THE INVITATION WAS EXTENDED WE EXPRESSED OUR WILLINGNESS TO ATTEND A PREPARATORY MEETING AT CAIRO, PROVIDING ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED ON THE ARAB SIDE ATTEND. AND WE THINK THAT THIS IS AS POSITIVE AS WE CAN BE ON THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE.

Q-ON NOVEMBER THE TWENTIETH WHEN PRESIDENT SADAT WAS INDEED IN ISRAEL, MR. BEGIN EXTENDED A PERSONAL INVITATION TO YOU TO GO TO ISRAEL FOR PEACE TALKS. COULD YOU SAY WHETHER YOU'RE PREPARED TO DO THAT EITHER NOW OR UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS IN THE FUTURE? A-I CAN SAY VERY CLEARLY THAT IF IT WERE FOR THE GESTURE, THE EXPRESSION, I THINK PRESIDENT SADAT HAS PERSONALLY ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR GOING AS FAR AS ANY OF US COULD BE HIS ACTION AND HIS VISIT. I CANNOT SEE ANY CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH I COULD MAKE SUCH A VISIT TO JERUSALEM. I'M PERSONALLY READY FOR ANY SACRIFICE OR EFFORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE BUT THE BASIS FOR THAT, IN MY OPINION, HAS BEEN VERY CLEAR TO THE ISRAELIS ALL ALONG, HAS BEEN VERY CLEAR TO THE

ISRAELIS ALL ALONG, IN POINT OF FACT SINCE 1967 AND
SINCE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242 FIRST CAME INTO BEING:
THE RETURN OF ARAB TERRITORIES, THE RECOGNITION OF ARAB RIGHTS,
PALESTINIAN RIGHTS TO SELF-DETERMINATION, A SOLUTION
TO THE PROBLEMS OF A PEOPLE WHO HAS SUFFERED OVER
SO MANY YEARS AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH UN RESOLUTIONS,
THE RETURN OF ARAB SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ARAB PART
OF THE CITY OF JERUSALEM. AFTER THE RABAT SUMMIT
WE WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR DOING ALL WE COULD TO RECOVER THE TERRITORIES
LOST IN JUNE OF 1967 WHEN WE FOUGHT
ALONGSIDE EGYPT AS A RESULT OF EGYPT'S BEING ATTACKED--
AND UNDER EGYPTIAN COMMAND--CASUING US TO LOSE THE
WEST BANK AND MANY OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO DIED
DEFENDING JERUSALEM, ARAB JERUSALEM AND ARAB RIGHTS.
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UP TO THE RABAT SUMMIT CONFERENCE WE HAVE TRIED OUR. MORE

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VERY BEST, IN POINT OF FACT AFTER THE OCTOBER WAR WE TRIED OUR
UTMOST, TO SEE A SIMILAR DISENGAGEMENT OCCUR ON OUR FRONT WITH
ISRAEL; BUT WE WERE NOT SUCCESSFUL. AND THE POSITION ON THAT
FRONT IS VERY CLEAR. WE DO NOT BARGAIN OVER PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

OR PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES. IT WASN'T OURS TO BARGAIN FOR. THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS TO SELF-DETERMINATION IN THOSE AREAS IS THE KEY TO PEACE. WE WOULD BE WILLING TO GO A VERY LONG WAY IF THOSE RIGHTS WERE RECOGNIZED AND IF THE PROCESS LEADING TO THE ISRAELIS' EVACUATING THE TERRITORIES EVACUATED IN 1967 (GARBLE). TO ISRAEL, BEFORE THE RABAT SUMMIT CONFERENCE, JORDAN WAS A FORCE OF OCCUPATION. AND AFTER THE RABAT SUMMIT CONFERENCE THE JORDANIANS SUDDENLY BECAME VERY ATTRACTIVE AS THE ONLY PARTNERS TO A SOLUTION. WE HAVE MANY SERIOUS DOUBTS REGARDING THE ISRAELI ATTITUDES ON THE WEST BANK, ON JERUSALEM ON (GARBLE). BUT PRESIDENT SADAT HAS STARTED THE PROCESS WHICH WILL DEFINITELY MAKE IT CLEAR TO THE WORLD HOW FAR ISRAEL IS PREPARED TO GO FOR PEACE. MY SOLE CONCERN AT THIS STAGE IS TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE TO INSURE THE COHESION THAT IS NEEDED IN THE ARAB WORLD. TO INSURE THAT WE COME TOGETHER TO LOGICALLY APPROACH PROBLEMS. WE BELIEVE VERY STRONGLY THAT THIS IS UNCLASSIFIED

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THE BEST CONTRIBUTION THAT WE CAN MAKE AT THIS STAGE AND AT ANY STAGE FOR A BETTER FUTURE FOR THIS AREA. SO THAT QUESTION IS NOT IN OUR MINDS... IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF WHETHER TO GO TO JERUSALEM OR NOT GO TO JERUSALEM. IF MY GOING TO JERUSALEM WOULD LEND SOMETHING DEFINITE, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN PROBABLY SOMETHING WORTH CONSIDERING. BUT I HAVE VERY SERIOUS DOUBTS THAT THIS IS THE CASE. BUT AS FAR AS THE GESTURE IS CONCERNED , THAT PRESIDENT SADAT UNDERTOOK HIMSELF WITHOUT CONSULTING US, WE PRAISE HIS COURAGE IN DOING SO AND WE AWAIT DEVELOPMENTS.

A-DO YOU BELIEVE YOURSELF THAT THE PROPOSALS FOR A LASTING PEACE ARE BETTER NOW THAN THEY WERE A MONTH AGO?
A-I CAN'T HONESTLY TELL YOU THIS. THE BIGGEST POSSIBLE MOVE THE ARAB COULD HAVE MADE HAS BEEN MADE ALREADY AND I WANT TO SAY THAT IN POINT OF FACT IT SHOULD BE UP TO ISRAEL TO MAKE HER CONTRIBUTION. FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME WE HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY POSITIVE IN THE ARAB WORLD IN DEFINING OUR POSITION. AND, I SAY IT AGAIN, IT DEPENDS ON ISRAEL AND ISRAEL IN THE MAIN. UP TO NOW I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY ENCOURAGING SIGNS BUT MAYBE THEY WILL BE FORTHCOMING .

Q-THE PLO IS NOW LEADING THE OPPOSITION TO THE SADAT INITIATIVES. DO YOU SEE ANY CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH SOMEBODY BESIDES THE PLO CAN REPRESENT THE PALESTINIANS AT A GENEVA CONFERENCE?
A-I BELIEVE IT IS UP TO THE PALESTINIANS THEMSELVES TO DETERMINE WHAT IS THE BEST COURSE THAT THEY SHOULD FOLLOW. AS FAR AS WE'RE CONCERNED WE WERE AT RABAT, ACCEPTED THE RABAT DECISION TO RECOGNIZE THE PLO AS THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE AND SIMULTANEOUSLY WE HAVE ALWAYS SAID THAT WE ARE FOR THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION BY THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE UNDER CONDITIONS FOR TOTAL FREEDOM, IN OTHER WORDS AFTER OCCUPATION

IS NO MORE. WHATEVER THE MAJORITY OF PALESTINIANS CHOOSE,
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WE WILL ACCEPT. REGARDING THE GENEVA PROCESS, I REALLY DON'T KNOW.
I MEAN, AT THIS STAGE THERE ARE SO MANY QUESTIONS AS TO WHETHER
THIS PROCESS IS STILL PROGRESSING TOWARD A DEFINITE END OR NOT.
WE CERTAINLY HOPE THAT IT IS AND WE CERTAINLY HOPE THAT
PALESTINIANS ARE ADEQUATELY REPRESENTED. BECAUSE ONLY THEY
CAN SAY WHAT THEY WISH REGARDING THEIR RIGHTS AND THEIR FUTURE.

Q-YOU SAID THAT YOU HAVE VERY SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT ISRAEL'S
INTENTIONS AND YOU ALSO SAID THAT JORDAN'S BEST CONTRIBUTION NOW
WOULD BE TO BRING ABOUT COHESION IN THE ARAB WORLD. DO YOU
THINK THAT THE PRESENT STATE OF TREMENDOUS POLITICAL DISARRAY
HAS SET THE GENEVA CONFERENCE BACK INDEFINITELY OR DO YOU THINK
THAT JORDAN'S CONTRIBUTION NOW COULD BE TO ACT AS A MEDIATOR TO
GET THE ARABS BACK ON TRACK TOWARDS THE GENEVA CONFERENCE OR
OR POSSIBLY SOMETHING LIKE THE UNITED NATIONS'S CONCEPT
SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM HAS SUGGESTED?

A-WELL I CAN TELL YOU ONE THING. THE SHOCK OF PRESIDENT SADAT'S
ACTION AFFECTED ALL OF US SERIOUSLY ENOUGH TO HAVE US NOT MEET WITH
YOU IN ALL THIS PERIOD OF TIME WHILE TRYING TO ARRANGE MY THOUGHTS
AND

ANALYZE WHAT WAS HAPPENING. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME TREMENDOUS
SURPRISES

AND CERTAINLY THAT WAS ONE OF THEM. AND ABVIOUSLY IT HAS HAD
ITS REPERCUSSIONS REGARDING THE ARAB WORLD ITSELF. THE POINT
IS THAT SHORTLY BEFORE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE VISIT AND THE VISIT
ITSELF, I WAS PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN A GREAT DEAL OF ACTIVITY IN
BRINGING THE PARTIES TO GENEVA ON THE ARAB SIDE TO SIT AND ORGANIZE
OURSELVES AND PREPARE FOR GENEVA. AND THEREFORE MY SURPRISE.
MORE

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4088

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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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WAS PROBABLY MORE THAN WOULD HAVE BEEN THE CASE NORMALLY. AND OBVIOUSLY YOU CAN SEE THE EFFECTS ON THE ARAB WORLD OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED. OUR OWN FEELING IS THAT IT HAS HAPPENED AND WE SHOULD LOOK FORWARD TO THE FUTURE TO INSURE THAT THE ARAB WORLD IS COHESIVE AND THERE IS A COMMON STAND, IF POSSIBLE AT ALL. NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT THAT LOOKS, WE'RE TRYING AND WE WILL TRY OUR VERY BEST TO ACHIEVE THAT. WE ARE NOT FOR EITHER OF THE TWO EXTREMES. WE ARE FOR WHAT SERVES THE ARAB INTEREST AND BEYOND THAT, WHAT LEADS THE ARAB WORLD TO A BETTER LIFE AND A BETTER FUTURE. AND WE ARE FOR AN HONORABLE, JUST PEACE IN THIS AREA.

Q-DO YOU EXPECT JORDAN TO REACTIVATE POSSIBLE THE INITIATIVE YOU WERE UNDERTAKING BEFORE THE SADAT VISIT?

A-WE ARE EXAMINING EVERY POSSIBILITY AT THIS STAGE.

Q-CAN YOU PLEASE TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT THE BEHIND THE SCENES MANEUVERING YOU WERE INVOLVED IN AND IS IT YOUR IMPRESSION THAT WHAT SADAT DID, SET BACK YOUR EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH(GARBLE) TOWARD PEACE TALKS?

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A-IN THAT REGARD I SUPPOSE, YES, THERE IS SOME SETBACK THAT HAS OCCURED.

I HAD FELT THAT TO BEGIN WITH THE JOINT ACTION OF EGYPT AND SYRIA IN 1973 HAD BROUGHT ABOUT A CHAIN OF EVENTS, PLUS OBVIOUSLY THE ARAB EFFORT IN THE ARAB WORLD AS A WHOLE AND IN THE WORLD AS A WHOLE--THE INTEREST OF PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD IN THIS AREA. THE DANGERS OF UNRESOLVED PROBELMS THAT HAVE PLAGUED THIS AREA FOR SO LONG TO THE FUTURE OF WORLD PEACE--ALL THESE FACTORS ARE CULMINATED IN THE EFFORTS TO BRING THE PARTIES TOGETHER TO BEGIN THE PROCESS THAT WOULD LEAD TO AN HONORABLE, JUST PEACE. AND MATTERS WERE MOVING RATHER RAPIDLY. I FELT IT MAY DUTY AS A RESULT OF THAT TO MOVE AND I DID IT WITH SYRIA, SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT AND THEN SYRIA AGAIN AND WE WERE OBVIOUSLY TALKING ABOUT WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO GET THE PARTIES TO MEET AND TO DISCUSS GENEVA AND TO DISCUSS THE ARAB ATTITUDE AND WHAT IT SHOULD BE IN GREAT DETAIL. AND WE WERE STILL WORKING ON THAT TACK WHEN THE SURPRISE OCCURRED. SO YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THAT THIS OBVIOUSLY HAS AFFECTED OUR OWN

EFFORTS TO A VERY LARGE EXTENT. IT IS ALSO TRUE THAT SIMILAR ACTIONS IN THE PAST TAKEN EITHER BY ONE STATE OR MORE IN THIS AREA HAS HAD AN INEVITABLE EFFECT ON JORDAN DIRECTLY AND ON THE ARAB WORLD AS A WHOLE. I HAVE FELT ALSO THAT ACTIONS ARE THE RESULT OF CONDITIONS THAT PREVAIL IN THE ARAB WORLD. BUT IT WAS A SURPRISE, IT HAD AN EFFECT, WHICH WAS POSSIBLY NEGATIVE IN SOME REAL SENSE AND NOW IT IS OUR DUTY TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO SEE WHAT WE CAN DO FOR THE FUTURE.

Q-IS IT YOUR IMPRESSION THAT SYRIA AND THE PLO AND OTHERS WERE CLOSE TO AGREEING TO COME TO GENEVA AND THAT WHAT MR. SADAT HAS DONE HAS ADVERSELY AFFECTED THAT?

A-WELL, WHEN I RETURNED TO AMMAN FROM THAT TOUR, I FELT THAT WE WERE CLOSE TO SOME FORM OF MEETING, NOT NECESSARILY AT THE SUMMIT LEVEL, WITH ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED TO PREPARE FOR GENEVA. THAT WAS MY FEELING AND IMPRESSION THEN. AS FOR THE PRESENT, UNCLASSIFIED

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I LEAVE IT TO YOU TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THE PROSPECTS ARE THE SAME OR NOT. OBVIOUSLY, WE ARE CONCERNED WITH THE SITUATION IN THE ARAB WORLD AND WE WILL TRY TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO GET OVER THE EMOTIONAL REACTION AND TO DEAL WITH REALITIES AND OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN A MOST COURAGEOUS, CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER.

Q-YOU HAVE SAID THAT UNDERSTOOD THE REASONS THAT PRESIDENT SADAT WENT TO ISRAEL, NOW HE HAS SAID SINCE THEN THAT HE INTENDS TO DISCUSS THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT FROM THE ARAB VIEWPOINT RATHER THAN SOLELY THE EGYPTIAN VIEWPOINT, AND IN THAT SENSE HE WOULD BE DISCUSSING, WOULD HE NOT, SOME OF THE ISSUES THAT REMAIN AS CONCERNS YOU ON THE WEST BANK--FOR EXAMPLE, THE FINANCIAL BURDEN OF SUBSIDIZING SOME OF THE MUNICIPALITIES OVER THERE, AND I BELIEVE WE HEARD SOMETHING FROM THERE ABOUT REQUESTS FOR FUNDS AND AID. IF YOU ARE STILL HEAVILY INVOLVED IN THE WEST BANK, WOULD YOU BE CONTENT TO HAVE PRESIDENT SADAT NEGOTIATE WITH THE ISRAELIS FOR YOU IN TERMS OF RESOLVING YOUR INTEREST IN THE AREA IN THE BEST POSSIBLE WAY?

A-(PASSAGE OMITTED) THERE IS NO SOLUTION TO THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM WITHOUT THE PALESTINIANS AND A SOLUTION TO THEIR PROBLEM. I HOPE THAT WHATEVER HAD HAPPENED AND WHATEVER WILL HAPPEN WILL CONCENTRATE ON THAT PARTICULAR ASPECT AND AREA AND WILL RESULT IN SOME POSITIVE RESULT.

Q-YOU EXPRESSED SUCH A DEEP INTEREST IN A RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS OF THE PEOPLE EVEN THOUGH THE RABAT DECISION HAS RELIEVED YOU OF THE CONTROL. MORE

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
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OF THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF THAT AREA. PRESIDENT SADAT SAYS
THAT HE WILL PSEAK FOR THE TNTIRE ARAB WRODL, THAT HE WILL
NEGOTIATE FOR ALL THE CONFRONTATION STATES AT HIS MEETING IN
CAIRO. IS THAT SUFFICIENT TO YOU TO EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT YOUR
OWN DESIRE FOR SOMETHING POSITIVE TO COME OUT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS
IN TERMS OF HELPING THE PEOPLE OF THE WEST BANK IS IT ALL RIGHT
WITH YOU IF PRESIDENT SADAT SIMPLY DOES THE NEGOTIATING WITH
ISR3) 8NSTEAD OF YOU?

A-I THINK IT'S A VERY IMPORTANT AND COURAGEOUS ATTITUDE THAT
PRESIDENT SADAT IS TAKING, I REALLY HOPE THAT THE RESULTS ARE
SUCCESSFUL. I SUPPOSE WE CAN ONLY JUDGE MATTERS WHEN WE HAVE
SOMEHTING TANGIBLE BEFORE US TO SEAK OF. AND IN THE MEANTIME,
I'M TRYING MY VERY BEST TO SEE WHAT ALL OF US CAN DO TO INSURE
THAT THE ARAB WORLD IS PRESENTED IN THE BEST POSSIBLE POSTURE IN
ITS OWN INTERESTS AND FOR ITS OWN FUTURE FOR THE RECOVERY OF
PALESTINIAN RIGHTS AND FOR THE ESTABLISHEMNT OF AJUST AND DURABLE
PEACE.

Q-IF YOU SEE THAT THERE IS SOME PROGRESS IN EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT
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SADAT'S
INITIATIVE ON THE BASIS OF AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT FOR AN ISRAELI
WITHDRAWAL FROM ARAB LAND AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN
HOMELAND, WOULD YOU CONSIDER A JOINT MEETING IN CAIRO AT A LATER

DATE?

A-THERE ARE TWO DISTINCT ISSUES HERE. WOULD I PERSONALLY TRY MY VERY BEST TO BRING MY ARAB BRETHERN TOGETHER? I WOULDN'T HESITATE. I WOULD TRY MY VERY BEST TO FIND WAY OF HELPING IN THAT REGARD. AND IF THAT ENTAILS MY MOVING PERSONALLY, I WOULD MOVE TO DAMASCUS AND CAIRO OR ANOTHER ARAB CAPITAL TO ACHIEVE THAT END. THAT IS ONE THING. THE OTHER THING IS THAT THIS MEETING, WHICH IS TO PREPARE FOR GENEVA, IF THE OTHER PARTIES CONCERNED ATTEND WE WILL ATTEND. AND WE BELIEVE THAT OUR ATTITUDE AS SUCH IS A POSITIVE ONE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. THIS IS ALL I CAN TELL YOU AT THIS STAGE.

Q-ONE OF THE BIGGEST QUESTIONS: WILL YOU ACCEPT THE INVITATION OF SECRETARY GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM TO MEET IN NEW YORK WITHOUT THIS PRECONDION THT ALL THE PARTIES WOULD ATTEND?

A-WELL YOU SEE WE ARE IN A DILEMMA AND WE HAVE BEEN FOR QUITE A WHILE. WE INSIST THAT THE PALESTINIANS BE INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS LEADING TO A SOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. RABAT WAS A DEFINITE LANDMARK THAT HAS PLACED EMPHASIS ON THIS VERY POINT. WE SUPPORT THIS APPROACH. WHAT IS THERE FOR US TO DO TO PREPARE FOR GENEVA IN THAT FORUM? THERE ARE OTER PARTIES THAT ARE MORE DIRECTLY INVOLVED. WE ARE NOT ABOUT TO TAKE SIDES. WE HOPE THERE WILL BE ONE ARAB SIDE. AND WE ARE TRYING OUR VERY BEST TO ACHIEVE THIS POSITION SOMEHOW. THEN WE WILL NOT HESITATE TO BE INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS LEADING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE. IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF OUR ATTENDANCE OR OTHERWISE THAT IS GOING TO ALTER THE COURSE OF HISTORY IN TERMS OF A SUCCESSFUL GENEVA OR OTHERWISE. WE ARE A CONFRONTATION STATE, WE HAVE A VERY GREAT ATATE, UNCLASSIFIED

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WE ARE VERY INVOLVED , WE HAVE THE LOGEST CEASEFIRE LINE WITH ISRAEL

, WE HAVE WITHIN THIS COUNTRY VERY MANY OF OUR BRETHERN THAT HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THE PALESTINIAN TREGEDY; WE ARE CLOSE TO THE PALESTINIAN

PEOPLE, AND TO THEIR PROBLEM. (GARBLE)... THIS CONCEPT, THAT IT IS BENEATH THE DIGNITY OF AN ARAB LEADER TO SIT AND TALK AT ANY FORUM WITH OUR OPPONENTS. OUR DIGNITY IS A PART OF THE DIGNITY OF OUR PEOPLE WHO ARE UNDER OCCUPATION... OUR DIGNITY AND THEIRS IS IDENTICAL. THIS IS NOT THE ISSUE. THE ISSUE IS WHAT CAN BE DONE TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE. (PASSAGE OMITTED)

Q-A NUMBER OF WEST BANK LEADERS HAVE BEEN INVITED BY THE ARAB SOCIALIST PARTY OF EGYPT TO GO TO CAIRO FOR TALKS ON THE SITUATION FOLLOWING PRESIDENT SADAT'S VISIT AND SOME OF THEM SEEM TO BE RATHER PERPLEXED WHETHER THEY SHOULD ACCEPT THAT INVITATION OR NOT. IF THEY WERE TO ASK YOUR ADVICE ON THE SUBJECT WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE THEM?

A-IT IS THEIR JOB TO DECIDE WHAT THEY WISH TO DO. AS FOR THE PERPLEXITY, I CAN ASSURE THAT I'VE SUFFERED FROM THAT MYSELF.

Q-THE MAYOR OF BABLUS IS TODAY VISITING AMMAN. IT'S HIST FIRST VISIT HERE SINCE HE BECAME THE MAYOR OF NABLUS AND HE HAS HAD A ROYAL RECEPTION. HE'S BEEN MEETING POLITICAL LEADERS, HE'S HAD A MEETING I BELIEVE WITH YOURSELF. DOES THIS MARK THE BEGINNING OF AN ATTEMPT TO COORDINATE THE POLITICAL POSITION AS WELL AS TALKING ABOUT SOCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THEEAST AND WEST BANKS?
A-I JUST MET THE MAYOR OF NABLUS AND HIS COLLEAGUES. MORE

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AND I'VE MET WITH MOST OF THE MAYORS FROM THE WEST BANK ON AND OFF WHENEVER THEY'VE CHOSEN TO VISIT JORDAN. THE VISIT IN ITSELF HAS NO POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE WHATSOEVER. IT IS RELATED TO THE PROBLEMS THEY FACE THERE AND WHAT THEY HOPE WE'LL BE ABLE TO DO TO HELP THEM TO OVERCOME THESE PROBELMS. AND WE'RE TRYING TO DO ALL WE CAN TO HELP WITHIN OUR MEANS.

Q-RIGHT NOW IN TRIPOLI THERE'S A CONFERENCE GOING ON OF THE SO-CALLED

"REJECTIONIST COUNTRIES" AND THERE MIGHT BE SIMILAR CONFERENCES IN IRAQ NEXT WEEK AND IN KUWAIT. WHAT EFFECT DO YOU THINK THOSE CONFERENCES MAY HAVE ON ARAB LEADERS?

A-I THINK THAT THOSE CONFERENCES ARE OBVIOUSLY A REACTION TO WHAT HAS HAPPENED. WE OURSELVES WILL NOT BE INVOLVED IN ANY SUCH

CONFERENCES. WE HAVE INDICATED OUR WILLINGNESS TO ATTEND AN ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN WHICH EVERY ARAB STATE IS REPRESENTED. THIS REALLY IS A VERY DIFFICULT PERIOD IN OUR LIVES AS WE ALL TRY TO ASCERTAIN AND FIND THE BEST WAY TO MOVE FORWARD. I HOPE VERY MUCH INDEED THAT OUR EFFORTS AT TRYING TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER

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WILL BE SUCCESSFUL AND THAT WE SHALL ACHIEVE COHESION WITHIN THE ARAB WORLD.

Q-(GARBLE) QUESTION ABOUT SPLIT IN ARAB RANKS.
A-IF THERE IS A SPLIT I BELIEVE IT WILL HAVE A DEVASTATING EFFECT ON THE FUTURE OF THE ARAB WORLD AS A WHOLE AND THE CONCEPT OF AN ARAB NATION. I HOPE AND PRAY THAT THIS WILL NOT BE THE CASE. I WOULD HOPE THAT NOT ONLY THE UNITED STATES BUT THE WORLD AS A WHOLE WOULD DO ALL POSSIBLE TOWARD THAT END. I BELIEVE THAT IT'S ABOUT TIME THAT THE ISRAELIS THEMSELVES MAKE THEIR CONTRIBUTION TOWARD A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE. AND I THINK THAT ON THE ARAB SIDE MORE THAN ENOUGH HAS BEEN DONE TOWARD THAT END.

Q-DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES IS DOING ALL THAT IT CAN OR THAT IT SHOULD DO?

A-I BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES IS GENERALLY INTERESTED IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE. PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE ADMINISTRATION HAVE BEEN VERY COURAGEOUS IN SHOULDERING THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARD THIS END. THAT WAS THE IMPRESSION I GAINED WHEN I HAD THE PLEASURE OF MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER ON MY VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES AND IN OUR CONTACT SINCE. AND IN THE FACE OF THE PRESENT DEVELOPMENTS I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT SHOULD BE DONE OR WHAT COULD BE DONE. IT IS FOR OUR FRIENDS TO ASCERTAIN WHAT IS THE BEST COURSE FOR THEM TO ADOPT AND FOLLOW. BUT OBVIOUSLY THE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM MUST BE A COMPREHENSIVE ONE AND ONE THAT PRODUCES A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE IN THIS AREA. I BELIEVE THIS TO BE THE VIEW OF WASHINGTON AT THIS STAGE AND I DO NOT DISAGREE WITH IT.

Q-DO YOU THINK THAT THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE CAIRO CONFERENCE TO THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH IS GOING TO GIVE THE ARAB NATIONS A BETTER CHANCE TO GET TOGETHER--MORE OF THEM GOING TO THE

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CONFERENCE--OR DO YOU THINK IT'S GOING TO TAKE A LONG TIME FOR ALL OF THEM TO GET TOGETHER AT ONE CONFERENCE?
A-I REALLY DON'T KNOW THE REASON FOR THE POSTPONEMENT OR THE EFFECT THAT SUCH A POSTPONEMENT WILL HAVE AT THIS STAGE. I JUST LEARNED

OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LAST COUPLE OF HOURS SO I REALLY CAN'T ANSWER THE QUESTION. (PASSAGE OMITTED)

Q-THE PLO HAS ALREADY SAID THAT IT WILL NOT ATTEND A GENEVA CONFERENCE UNDER (GARBLE) CIRCUMSTANCES. WOULD YOU ACCEPT ANY OTHER REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PALESTINIANS WHO WOULD AGREE TO GO TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE?

A-THIS IS A PROBLEM WHICH HAS NOT YET PRESENTED ITSELF BEFORE US AND OUR POSITION IS DEFINITELY THAT THE PALESTINIANS MUST BE REPRESENTED IN ANY RESOLUTION TO THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. ONLY THEY CAN MAKE A CONTRIBUTION. ONLY THEY CAN ACCEPT OR REFUSE WHAT AFTER ALL HAS TO DEAL WITH THEIR RIGHTS ON THEIR LAND. THIS IS THE POSITION THAT WE SUPPORT FULLY.

Q-THERE IS SOME SPECULATION THAT YOU ARE TRYING TO REACTIVATE YOUR OLD IDEA OF THE UNITED ARAB KINGDOM, CAN YOU COMMENT ON THAT?

A-I CAN ONLY SAY VERY CATEGORICALLY, VERY OPENINGLY, VERY FRANKLY, VERY DEFINITELY, THAT ANY SUGGESTIONS WE EVER MADE WERE REALLY TO PRESENT OPTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES FOR PEOPLE TO EXAMINE. WE HAVE NO AMBITIONS IN THE WEST BANK OR IN GAZA OR IN PALESTINE OR ANYWHERE ELSE. WE HAVE ONLY THE FEELING THAT WE HAVE INHERITED A TREMENDOUS RESPONSIBILITY. WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO THE FUTURE GENERATIONS IN THE AREA TO DO ALL POSSIBLE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE. OUR POSITION IS NOT AND NEVER WILL BE AN OPPORTUNISTIC ONE IN ANY FORM. PICKERING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: PGOV, XF, JO, (HUSSEIN I)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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